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Iago

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Iago. An alternate title for *OTELLO*, used intermittently throughout much of its composition, possibly to avoid comparison with Rossini's opera of the same name. Writing to his librettist, Arrigo BOITO (21 Jan. 1886), Verdi finally resolved to name the work after its protagonist, preferring to be accused of failure rather than of hiding behind a less suitable title. LINDA B. FAIRTILE